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CONFIDENTIAL
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

August 22, 1995

TO: EXEC - Ambassador Albright
THRU: EXEC - Ambassador Gnehm
FROM: POL - William B. Wood *WYW*
SUBJECT: Security Council on Rwanda

Background: Although Zaire has been threatening to forcibly return Rwandan refugees for some time now, last week's SC resolution to lift the arms embargo on Rwanda seems to have triggered action. Although information remains sketchy, it would appear that as many as 15,000 refugees have been forcibly returned in the last few days and the pace is accelerating.

Prime Minister Kengo wrote the Secretary-General on August 17 to explain Zaire's position. The Secretary-General replied on August 21, noting that he would refer the issue to the Security Council and in the meantime making an "urgent appeal that your government continue to provide assistance to the Rwandan and Burundian refugees consistent with the tradition of generosity of the Zairian people." Gharekhan is expected to update the Council today.

The Department urges immediate action here in New York, preferably in the form of a Security Council presidential statement.

We will consult regarding the text of a presidential statement while the Council is considering the Burundi Commission of Inquiry.

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